

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7108
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4936

USEEC

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, YO, ECIN
SUBJ: EC/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

REF: BRUSSELS 12688

1. WE APPRECIATE DETAILED REPORT AND ANALYSIS OF HAFERKAMP/
EC OFFICIAL VIEWS ON PRESENT STAGE OF COMMUNITY NEGOTIATIONS
WITH YUGOSLAVIA. WHILE HAFERKAMP MAY BE CORRECT IN BELIEF
THAT PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT CONSISTENT WITH EC'S GLOBAL
MEDITERRANEAN POLICY IS ONLY WAY TO CORRECT YUGOSLAV TRADE
IMBALANCE, IT IS STILL FAR FROM CLEAR, FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE
HERE, THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS AGREED TO THIS COURSE OF ACTION.
AT A MINIMUM, THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASCERTAIN OFFICIAL
YUGOSLAV POSITION BEFORE USG REACHES DECISION ON POLICY
GUIDANCE REQUESTED PARA 12 REFTEL.

2. SHOULD THE EC DECIDE TO PROPOSE TO THE YUGOSLAVS
A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT SIMILAR TO THE EC-ALGERIAN
AGREEMENT, WE SEE THE FOLLOWING THREE ALTERNATIVES FOR
USG RESPONSE:
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A) EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT. WE
REALIZE THIS IS ARGUING THE SOMEWHAT NARROW CASE FOR
SPECIAL YUGOSLAV INTEREST, BUT BELIEVE THERE ARE SUB-
STANTIAL REASONS TO TREAT YUGOSLAVIA ON AT LEAST THE
SAME BASIS AS ALGERIA. WHILE A EUROPEAN COUNTRY, WE
BELIEVE YUGOSLAVIA IS, IN IMPORTANT WAYS,
SIMILAR TO ALGERIA AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES CITED PARA 4

REFTEL. WE HAVE ADVANCED ARGUMENTS IN THE PAST REGARDING THE PRESENT CRITICAL STAGE FOR YUGOSLAVIA AND THE NEED TO SOLIDIFY ITS TIES WITH THE WEST THROUGH A MORE RATIONAL TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH WESTERN EUROPE AS THE COUNTRY PREPARES FOR THE POST TITO ERA.

B) OPPOSE PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT. WHILE THERE MAY BE TRADE POLICY REASONS TO DO SO, WE BELIEVE THAT TELLING EC WE OPPOSE AGREEMENT WOULD BE DANGEROUS COURSE IN NARROW US TERMS. THIS COURSE OF ACTION WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO RUN COUNTER TO OUR EXPRESSED VIEWS THAT THERE ARE SOUND AND COMPELLING POLITICAL GROUNDS FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA. FURTHERMORE, SHOULD WE EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT WORD TO GET BACK TO YUGOSLAVS ABOUT IT.

C) EXPRESS NO VIEW ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

3. OF THE THREE ALTERNATIVES LISTED ABOVE, WE WOULD ARGUE --ADMITTEDLY FROM A PARTICULAR VANTAGE POINT--FOR ALTERNATIVE A. WE WOULD HOPE, IN ANY CASE, THAT THE FINAL DECISION IS REACHED ON THE BASIS OF OUR POLICY RELATIONS WITH THE EC TOGETHER WITH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH THE LONG RANGE GOAL OF MOVING YUGOSLAVIA CLOSER TO THE WEST AND OUR IMMEDIATE GOAL OF BETTER YUGOSLAV-WEST EUROPEAN RELATIONS. THE WORST COURSE OF ACTION, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD BE ALTERNATIVE B. AT THE VERY LEAST, WE WOULD HOPE THAT WE COULD FOLLOW ALTERNATIVE C BY NOT TAKING A

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DEFINITIVE POSITION EITHER FOR OR AGAINST THE AGREEMENT.

4. IN ANY EVENT, WE REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO INFORM YUGOSLAVS OF US POLICY DECISION REGARDING OUR RESPONSE TO EC ON PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY IF OUR DECISION IS TO SUPPORT IT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF OUR DECISION IS TO OPPOSE IT WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TELL THE YUGOSLAVS PRECISELY WHY, OR TO INFORM THEM IF WE DECIDE TO SAY NOTHING, SO THAT THEY DO NOT LEARN THIS FORM SOMEONE ELSE.

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